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Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B03F20L05

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January 24, 1972

Memo to: Senator Stennis
From : RGM
Re : School Desegregation Amendments

The Emergency School Aid Act, S. 1557, passed the Senate in April 1971. This bill contained the Stennis Amendment.

The Education Amendments of 1971, an omnibus education bill commonly called the Higher Education Bill--S. 659--passed the Senate in August 1971.

On November 5, on the House floor, the two bills were combined, and four school desegregation amendments were added.

Two amendments were added to the miscellaneous title of the Education bill, in substance as follows:

1. Court orders requiring transfer of students are not to be carried out until appeals are exhausted.
2. Federal funds are not to be used for busing, nor can Federal officers urge the use of State or local funds for busing.

Two amendments were added to the general provisions of the Emergency School Aid title, in substance as follows:

1. No emergency school aid money is to be used for busing.
2. Nothing in the Emergency School Aid title is to be construed as providing assignment of pupils according to a neighborhood school concept.

The four House amendments have been printed as Senate Amendments 658, 659, 660, and 661. They also have been consolidated as four sections of a single Senate amendment--No. 663. A copy of this amendment is attached.

In the emergency School Aid title of the House bill, the Stennis Amendment appears in the Purpose and Policy Section (Sec 1802).

The House omitted some of the wording, as shown by the deletions indicated below:

"It is the policy of the United States that guidelines and criteria established pursuant to ~~(Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 182 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments of 1966, and this Act)~~ (this title) shall be applied uniformly in all regions of the United States in dealing with conditions of segregation by race ~~(whether de jure or de facto)~~ in the schools of the local educational agencies of any State without regard to the origin or cause of such segregation. "

The House has appointed 20 conferees, led by Congressman Perkins of Kentucky. No Senate conferees have been appointed. The House asks for the conference and the Senate acts first.

R.G.M.

ENCLOSURE: AMENDMENT NO 663

RGM:mf